



BRIEFING: DECEMBER 2012, BOARD MEETING AGENDA ITEM #3

TO: Chairman Richard and Board Members

FROM: Jeff Morales, Chief Executive Officer

DATE: December 6, 2012

RE: Community Benefits Policy

Background

On November 14, 2012, a representative from the Fresno County Workforce Investment Board provided the Board with a presentation on a national workforce development model that is currently utilized by the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro). Known as a National Targeted Hiring Initiative, it is designed to effectively address priority hiring of individuals whose primary place of residence is within an economically Disadvantaged Area or an extremely economically disadvantaged area in the United States or a disadvantaged worker. The Fresno County Workforce Investment Board further shared that Metro's National Targeted Hiring Initiative met the Federal Transit Administration's guidelines for its federal projects.

Discussion

According to the American Community Survey, a nationwide published survey designed to provide communities with reliable and timely demographic data for the nation, in 2011 about 15.9 percent of the U.S. population had income below the poverty level, an increase from 15.3 percent in 2010. Moreover, the number and percentage of people in poverty increased in 17 states between 2010 and 2011. The California High Speed Rail project provides an optimal opportunity to combat poverty and unemployment through the Design Builder's necessity to employ a large number of craft workers, which will create American jobs.

The Authority staff has developed a Community Benefits Policy and Plan, compliant with Federal Railroad Administration guidelines, which promotes and supports training and employment opportunities to those residing in extremely economically disadvantaged areas and veterans returning from military service. The Community Benefits policy shall further serve to enhance and promote the small business participation, inclusive of Disadvantaged Business Enterprises, Disabled Veteran Business Enterprises and Micro Businesses.

Recommendations

The Board authorizes the Chief Executive Officer to sign the Community Benefits Policy, Resolution HSRA 12-30, and to proceed with developing and implementing the Community Benefits Agreement.

Attachments

Community Benefits Policy
Resolution Number HSRA12-30